

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SSO-00

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P R 101406Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3550

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2798

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: EXPLUSION OF AFP
CORRESPONDENT

1. AFP RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT IN ADDIS ABABA, JEAN-MARIE BLIN, WAS EXPELLED FROM ETHIOPIA ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8, FOR "FILING DISTORTED AND OFTEN UNFOUNDED STORIES ABOUT THE TRUE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA," ACCORDING TO FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN SUNDAY'S (MARCH9) ETHIOPIAN HERALD.

2. BLIN HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FOUR "FINAL" WARNINGS FROM THE EPMG ABOUT DISTORTED REPORTS ON ETHIOPIA. HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING (AND OBVIOUSLY PUSHING FOR) EXPLUSION FOR SOME TIME. BLIN HAD ALREADY SENT HIS FAMILY AND MUCH OF PERSONAL EFFECTS TO FRANCE BEFORE EXPULSION DECREE.

3. MININFO OFFICIAL TOLD USIS OFFICER SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, "BLIN PROBABLY EXPECTS TO BE KICKED OUT. HIS FAMILY IS GONE AND HIS BAGS ARE PACKED." EXPULSION CAME AS NO SURPRISE CONSIDERING BLIN'S OFTEN IRRESPONSIBLE AND SENSATIONALISTIC REPORTING. HE DISTORTED STORY ABOUT ARREST OF USIS FSL (SEE ADDIS ABABA 15283), AND THEN PROMISED TO WRITE RETRACTION BUT NEVER DID. AT THIS POINT DIRG MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR MEDIA ASKED USIS
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OFFICER IF WE WANTED BLIN KICKED OUT. HOWEVER, USIS 27651

CAUTIONED POST AGAINST AGGRESSIVE FOLLOW-UP.

4. ACCORDING HERALD ARTICLE, BLIN'S DISPATCH OF MARCH 5 ON LAND REFORM WAS FINAL STRAW. HERALD QUOTES FROM AFP FILE, "REVOLUTIONARY LAND REFORM... WAS THE WORK OF CHINESE ADVISORS...AND THE DIRGUE'S NEXT MOVE WOULD BE TO CLOSE FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN ORDER TO PURSUE THE REVOLUTION WITHOUT WITNESS."

5. EPMG SPOKESMAN STATES BLIN WAS GIVEN LAST WARNING ON OCTOBER 17, 1974, AND "BLIN'S PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT SERVE THE INTEREST OF THE INTERNATIONALLY REPUTED FRENCH NEWS AGENCY HE REPRESENTS, EXCEPT DAMAGING AFP'S CREDIBILITY AND ETHIOPIA'S IMAGE ABROAD.
LEWIS

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